



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

CHAMBERS OF
PATRICK L. CARROLL III
DEPUTY CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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HARTFORD, CT 06106

**Testimony of the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, III
Deputy Chief Court Administrator**

**Insurance Committee Public Hearing
February 19, 2009**

H.B. 6354, An Act Regulating Surety Bail Bond Agents

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **H.B. 6354, *An Act Regulating Surety Bail Bond Agents***.

This bill would enhance the regulation of surety bail agents, an area that has needed to be addressed for some time now. As I am sure the Committee is aware, efforts to tighten up bail bond practices have been ongoing for several years, and the Program Review and Investigations Committee completed a comprehensive study in 2003.

Bail bond agents operate in a highly competitive market. Under the current regulatory framework, agents may deviate from recommended premiums, and the need to generate business functions as an incentive for them to undercut competitors' rates. This can lead to an unruly and sometimes chaotic situation in and near our courthouses as the agents solicit clients, which is detrimental to the maintenance of security in our buildings and on our grounds. The protections provided by section 12 of the bill would be of great assistance to us.

This bill would also ensure that defendants in need of the services of a bail bond agent would not be taken advantage of, and thereby enhance their perception of integrity in the criminal justice process.

There are two specific provisions of this proposal that I like to address: (1) In subsection (d) of section 9 of the bill, it would be helpful if the type of court action could be clarified. It sounds like the type of action that would be initiated in civil court, but that is not specified. (2) In section 10, we are hopeful that the requirement of a "written report from the court that a bond has been terminated" (lines 337-338) will be satisfied by the weekly summary of terminated bonds that we currently provide, as producing individual reports would put be a substantial workload increase for our clerks' offices.

Thank you for your consideration.